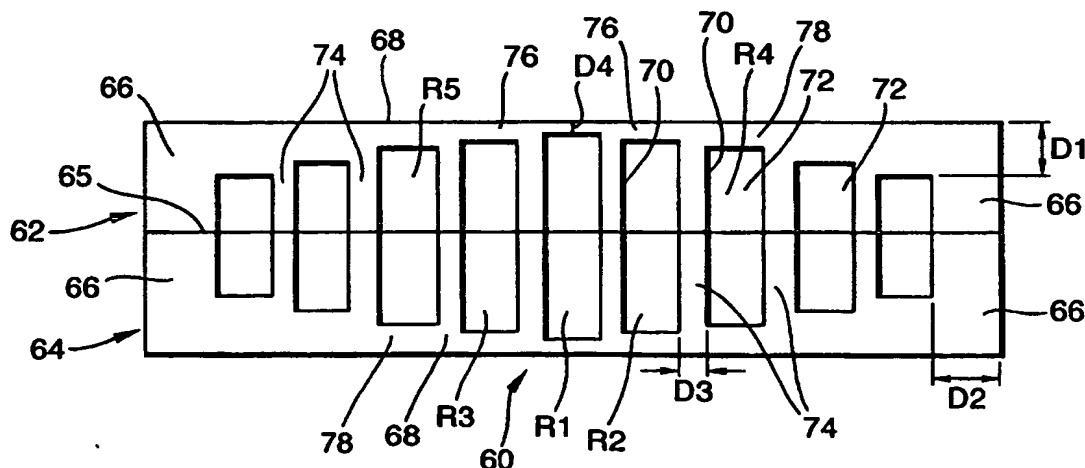


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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE [GB/GB]; Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, Ively Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 0XL (GB).			
(72) Inventors; and			
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): CANHAM, Leigh, Trevor [GB/GB]; DERA Malvern, St. Andrews Road, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 3PS (GB). BARRETT, Christopher, Paul [GB/GB]; DERA Malvern, St. Andrews Road, Melvern, Worcestershire WR14 3PS (GB). BOWDITCH, Andrew, Paul [GB/GB]; DERA Porton Down, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 0JQ (GB). COX, Timothy, Ingram [GB/GB]; DERA Malvern, St. Andrews Road, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 3PS (GB). WRIGHT, Peter, John [GB/GB]; DERA Malvern, St. Andrews Road, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 3PS (GB).		Published With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.	

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(57) Abstract

A porous silicon implant (42; 60) impregnated with a beneficial substance, such as a micromineral required for healthy physiology, is implanted subcutaneously and is entirely corroded away over the following months/year to release the micromineral in a controlled manner. In a second embodiment the implant (62) may have a large number of holes (72) which contain beneficial substance and which are closed by bio-errodable doors (76, 78) of different thickness so as to stagger the release of the beneficial substance over time as the doors are breached.